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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/08

SPONSOR Morales LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE WNMU Early Childhood Program SB 79

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$126.2	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 79 appropriates \$126.2 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University for expenditure in FY 2009 and FY 2010 to fund early childhood program needs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$126.2 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED states that a request was submitted by WNMU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review to increase base funding by \$126,200. The Department's funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding of \$588,200.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "supports state priorities" project. Reasons for this classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected

Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p76.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that according to WNMU, this program is significant to fulfilling WNMU's mission of meeting the diverse needs of students in order to support enrollment and retention. Strategic partnerships and collaborations support and sustain the effectiveness of the program.

According to the HED, key program goals and objectives are to:

- Continue offering affordable quality childcare to working families allowing increased options for employment in the workforce
- Increase ability to offer year round school age care
- Continue program management of the Silver High teen Growing Tree Infant/Toddler Program
- Strengthen early intervention across all programs by implementing the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment to measure program effectiveness and establish a base for future research
- Continue the expansion of the Family Counseling Center to better provide community outreach and professional training
- Strengthen the quality of early childhood education programs
- Expand community services projects to include
 - Infant/toddler care and develop business/child care partnerships to oversee program development
 - Two FTE for the lending libraries in Grant and Luna Counties
 - Continuation of the Disabilities Networking and Training Support Groups for parents, children, and providers
 - Maintain professional teaching salary schedule for stability and to reduce turnover

CYFD states that CYFD has performance measures on childcare and early childhood development. This bill is consistent with those measures, and with the Governor's Policy Initiative, *Healthy New Mexico* Task 2.6: Improve Access and Quality of Child Care

GH/mt